



## SEVEN INDICTED IN MOREHEAD BURGLARY PROBE CURRENT AND FORMER POLICE OFFICERS AMONG THOSE NAMED IN INDICTMENTS



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Two former Morehead State University security officers, three former Morehead city patrolmen and two current city police officers were indicted on a total of 20 charges yesterday in connection with burglaries on the Morehead campus.

The indictments were the first in a continuing investigation of a large number of thefts on the Morehead State campus, law enforcement and university officials said.

Those indicted included four men who were arrested in the case on July 18. They are former Morehead city police officers Larry G. Whitt, 29, and Carl Steven Stone, 28, and former Morehead State security officers Michael Lynn Reffitt, 29, and Garrick Bruce Roberts, 32. They were charged with first- degree burglary.

Also indicted in connection with the break-ins was former Morehead city patrolman Anthony White, 27.

Morehead city patrolmen Rick Sawaya and Baker Hollis were charged with official misconduct for allegedly knowing about the break-ins but failing to report them to superiors.

The indictments charge that Whitt, Stone, Reffitt, Roberts and White broke into the Morehead State University bookstore on two occasions last November or

December and that during the same two months they broke into Cartmell Hall on campus.

Sawaya and Hollis are each charged with second-degree official misconduct, a misdemeanor. The indictments charged that they knew that officers for the two police departments had committed the burglaries at the dorm and bookstore and failed to report the crimes to their superiors.

Sawaya was also charged with a Class A misdemeanor of knowingly receiving stolen property under \$100.

He is accused of receiving and possessing a calculator stolen from the bookstore.

In its final report, the grand jury said: "We strongly recommend that the

Kentucky State Police continue its investigation into the burglaries and thefts allegedly committed by Morehead city police officers and Morehead State University security officers, and possibly other persons.

"We further recommend that Kentucky State Police commit additional manpower to assist detective Kenneth Skeans in this investigation because of its magnitude and importance to this community."

The thefts were first noticed last fall after university President Herb F. Reinhard Jr. reviewed and changed campus security measures, spokesmen for Morehead State said. In October, after Reinhard had ordered the safety and security office to make daily reports on thefts and other activities to him and his cabinet, he ordered a new campuswide master lock system, the university officials said.

The investigation began after state police received a complaint from Reinhard's office.

Authorities said yesterday that they could not estimate the value of items stolen.

Rowan County Commonwealth's Attorney Truman Dehner declined to say whether authorities thought the thefts were part of a ring.

The thefts started "as far back as 1983 and maybe longer," state police Sgt. Jack Evans said.

University officials said the missing items included "all kinds of equipment," including computers and televisions.

The investigation came to light on July 18 when state police arrested Whitt, Stone, Reffitt and Roberts.

The indictments state that the four men and White were armed when they entered the bookstore and the dorm.

The five were each charged with three felony counts of first-degree burglary in connection with the break-ins. Each count is punishable upon conviction by a prison sentence of 10 to 20 years.

Stone and Roberts were also indicted on one felony count each of knowingly receiving stolen property over \$100, a Class D felony punishable upon conviction by a sentence of one to five years in prison.

The indictment against Roberts said that on May 8 or 9 he had in his possession stolen "movable property" belonging to Morehead State students.

Stone during 1984 through mid-July of 1985 had in his possession a stolen stereo, radio and tape-recording equipment, the indictment said.

Most of the men, through attorneys, entered not-guilty pleas before Rowan Circuit Judge James Richardson yesterday.

The cases against Sawaya and Hollis were transferred to Rowan District Court because the charges are misdemeanors. The attorney representing Reffitt was not present yesterday, so Reffitt's arraignment was put off until next week.

Reffitt declined to comment on the charges against him.

John Cox, an attorney for the city of Morehead and also assistant Rowan County commonwealth's attorney, said Sawaya and Hollis were suspended without pay yesterday pending the outcome of the cases against them.

He said White resigned Tuesday. He had been suspended without pay since July 15 pending the outcome of the investigation.

Whitt and Reffitt resigned in July.

Cox said Reffitt was a former city police officer and a former Rowan County sheriff's deputy. He had been employed by the university for more than four years.

Roberts had been employed by the university in various capacities for more than six years and had been a security officer since 1981. He resigned May 24.

Stone resigned from the city police department on July 2.

Cox said the city police department had an authorized strength of 15 officers.

Richard Baxter, executive assistant to Reinhard, said the university had an authorized strength of 10 security officers.

Cox said the results of the investigation came as a shock to city officials. "We have worked with most of these young men for quite some time, and until this occurred they had a clean record."

The grand jury recommended that "in the future the city of Morehead and Morehead State University use extreme care in hiring of any future law enforcement officers to insure their moral character, integrity and honesty."